

The Southwester

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Fire Drill Aboard “Spirit of Washington”

The Spirit Cruise Lines let one of their ships and two dozen off duty employees be used in a “fire and explosion” disaster drill by the US Coast Guard, DC and Alexandria Fire Depts. and the DC Police Harbor Patrol. “First responders” got to practice their disaster plans and training for fire and rescue in the case of a large vessel in the middle of the river.

The Spirit of Washington was anchored in the Potomac River near the Naval Research Laboratory. A mock fire and explosion with fake smoke and one crew member injured was reported by the ship. As real rescue boats and personnel arrived a second fire and explosion supposedly occurred with 25 casualties.

How well would the half dozen rescue boats coordinate their effort? TV crews and other news media, including The Southwester, were allowed to ride along on The Spirit of Washington as observers.



Above, Firefighters, including some from the 6th St. SW station, in full fire-fighting gear and breathing masks, were brought to the scene aboard The John Glen fire boat stationed on the SW waterfront and brought many feet of fire hose on board.

At left, A US Coast Guard rescue vessel and DC and Alexandria Police Patrol Boats rushed to the scene. D.C. Fire officers entered the water pretending to be passengers or crew overboard and were brought aboard rescue vessels.

More photos — see page 6.

Candidate Forum in SW Mon. Aug. 14

All candidates who have filed for DC's Sep. 12 primary election are being invited to appear at a candidate forum sponsored by SWNA and ANC6D on Mon. Aug. 14 in Arena Stage's Kreeger Theatre, 1101 6th St. SW at 7:00 pm.

In the Democratic Primary for Delegate to the US House of Representatives are Andy Miscuk and Eleanor Holmes Norton.

In the Democratic Primary for Mayor are (in alphabetical order) Michael A. Brown, Linda Cropp, Nestor Djonkam, Adrian M. Fenty, Marie C. Johns, Arlee J. Milligan Jr., Vincent Orange. In the Republican Primary for Mayor are Albert Ceccone, David Kranich and Dennis Moore. In the Statehood Green Primary for Mayor are Bro Chris Crowder and Chris Otten.

In the Democratic Primary for Chairman of the Council are Vincent C. Gray and Kathy Patterson.

In the Democratic Primary for At Large Member of the Council are A. Scott Bolden and Phil Mendelson. Other At Large candidates are Marcus W. Skelton, Republican, and Ann C. Wilcox, Statehood Green.

In the Democratic Primary for Ward 6 Member of the Council are Curtis

Continued on Page 3

You Can Meet the Waterfront Finalists July 27

Thurs. evening, July 27, at Southeastern University is your chance to meet and listen to the five developers AWC is considering for part or all of the major redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront.



3 Mo' Divas at Arena Stage Thru Aug. 13

Release from Arena Stage

3 Mo' Divas! covers eight musical styles, including Opera, Broadway, Jazz, Blues, Soul, New School, Spirituals and Gospel, spanning 400 years of music — everything a music lover could want, from Bach to Beyonce', Gounod to Gershwin, Schubert to Sondheim."



Zoning Board Rejects Baseball Parking Ramps

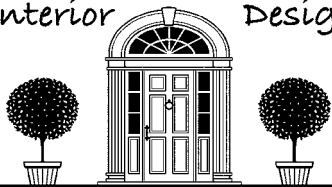
Two thirteen story parking ramps on the new baseball stadium in SE will not be built, as a result of a vote of the five member DC Board of Zoning recently. Instead, the Zoning body approved a plan for smaller parking ramps enclosed in buildings housing condo residences and commercial uses. Approved plan shown above.

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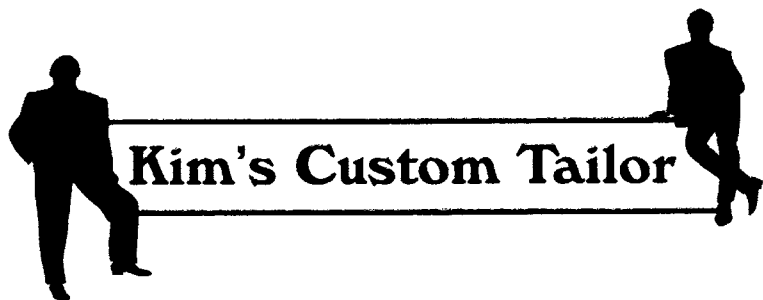
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High School Football Starts in Aug.

Health and permission forms for varsity football must be turned in Aug. 3-5 for public high schools in DC. Practice starts Aug. 8. Scrimmages and games start late in the month, with the first day of school Aug. 29.

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Email your stories and ads by **Wed., August 2** to *The Southwester* at thesouthwester@yahoo.com.

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Southwest Community Calendar

July 20 - August 31, 2006

THURS. JULY 20 Police Night at the Potomac for public, SW Harbor Patrol, near 6th and Water St. SW, Light refreshments 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

MON. JULY 24 WAMU invites all to live taping of The Kojo Nnamdi Show, Arena Stage, 1101 6th St SW, 6 pm

WED. JULY 26 DDOT Public meeting on 11th St. Bridge EIS, St. Matthews Baptist Church, 1105 NJ Ave. SE, 6:30 pm.

THURS. JULY 27 AWC public meeting to talk to 5 developers who are finalist for SW Waterfront, SE University, 6th and I St. SW, ___pm

TUES. AUG. 1 Police National Night Out, Candlelight vigil, along I (Eye) St. SW, from So. Capitol St. SW to 4th St. & I park. Prayer Service.

WED. AUG. 9 Police Community Day, King-Greenleaf Rec. Center, First & N St. SW, 12 noon to 4 pm.

MON. AUG. 14 Candidate Forum by ANC/SWNA, Arena Stage Kreeger Theatre, 1101 6th St. SW, SE University, 6th and I St. SW, 7:30 pm

MON. AUG. 14 Last Day to change or update voter registration for Sep. 12 Primary Election.

SAT. AUG. 19, Youth Safety Awareness, coordinated with Second Baptist Church, 1200 M

St. SW, 3 pm ^ 7 pm

WED. AUG. 23 Back to School Fair, Police Hdqtrs., 415 4th St. SW, 415-4th St. SW, 11 am to 3 pm.

THURS. AUG. 24 Chamber music concert, St. Augustine Church, 6th and Maine Ave. SW, 7:30 pm

TUES. AUG. 29 First Day of Public Schools in DC

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS – First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS – Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm

SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS – Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 – noon

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS Club – First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye) St. S.W., 7 pm 202-291-6229

S.W. KIWANIS – First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS – Every Wed. GSA Bldg – 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

LABYRINTH WALK – First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 7 pm

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed., August 2.

SEU International Festival

The International Festival at Southeastern University had booths featuring native foods and costumes of many countries, like these from Indonesia, Nigeria and Taiwan



BRIEFLY IN THE NEWS . . .

Youth Revival Aug. 17-20

A four-day youth revival will be held at Second Baptist Church at First and M St. SW from Thurs. Aug. 17 through Sun. Aug. 20, culminating in an oratorical contest at 4 pm Sun.

On Sat. from 3 pm to 7 pm a "Gospel Explosion and school supply drive" will be held in the public area in front of the church. Pre-registration (fee \$25) is required. (202) 484-3112.

Volunteers Sun. Mornings

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW) is seeking new weekend Meal Program Volunteers to get to know guests at area meal programs, share information about SMGW's Next Step program and encourage those who are ready to meet with a caseworker at one of SMGW's three locations in the Washington area.

Volunteers in SW, Washington will work at the Sunday morning breakfast program at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in SW, D.C. and will be trained to serve as the liaison between the meal program and Samaritan Ministry. Volunteers must have good interpersonal skills and a desire to work with individuals who are homeless, hungry and poor. For more information, please contact Chuck James at cjames@samaritanministry.org or 202-722-2280.

Office Supplies Needed!

In preparation for the 2006-2007 School Year, the Wilson Senior High School PTSA is in the process of putting together a packet with important information for new and returning Wilson families. This effort will require a great deal of paper and mailing envelopes!

If you have access to discounted office supplies, please let me know. Any funds we save can be redirected to the many programs the PTSA supports. Call Catherine Ribnick, PTSA President, 202-362-7022.

Bible Study at Christ Methodist

Christ United Methodist Church will hold Vacation Bible School for both Adults and Children from July 17 through July 28 from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. July 17-21: For adults: "The Life and Ministry of Paul" and "The Origins of African-American Music" (Instructor: Dr. Betty Yates)

For children: "The Bible and You" (Instructor: The Rev. Jason L. Robinson) July 24-28: For adults: "The Prayer of Jabez" (Instructor: Geraldine Whitley) For children: "Golden Text Study" (Instructor: Kesslyn Brade)

Forty Days Of Peace Events

■ Thursday, July 20th, Night on the Potomac/PSA Community Meeting, of 555 Water Street, SW (Harbor Patrol) 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm Light Refreshments will be served

■ Tuesday, August 1st, National Night Out- Candlelight Vigil- Starting at South Capitol and I Street, SW to 4th and I Street, SW (Park Area) - Prayer Service

■ Wednesday, August 9th, Community Day - Fun in the Sun, Greenleaf Recreation Center - 201 N Street, SW - 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

■ Saturday, August 19th, Youth Safety Awareness, Coordinated with Second Baptist Church - 1200 M Street, SW - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

■ Wednesday, August 23, Back to School Fair with PSA, 103 First District Headquarters - 415 4th Street, SW 11:00 to 3:00

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Candidates

cont'd from Page 1

L. Etherly, Jr., Leo Pinson and Tommy Wells. Antonio (Tony) Williams has filed as a Republican for that seat.

Candidates for the "shadow" seat in the US House of Representative if DC

should become a state are Democrats James S. Bubar, John J. Foster and Mike Panetta as well as Keith R. Ware of the Statehood Green Party. Candidates for a similar "shadow" seat in the US Senate are Democrats Michael D. Brown, Phillip E. Pannell and Florence H. Pendleton as well as Statehood Green candidate Joyce Robinson-Paul.

ANC Opposes Ballpark
July 6, 2006

Vice Chairman Anthony Hood
DC Zoning Commission
441 4th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: ANC-6D Response to the Supplementary Application by the DCSEC for the Review of the Ballpark Site on Squares 702 through 706 and Reservation 247

Dear Vice Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity for ANC-6D to present comments on the Supplement to the Application by the DCSEC for the review of the ballpark site on Squares 702 through 706 and Reservation 247 which previously we'd had no formal opportunity to address. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D, at a special noticed public meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at which a quorum was present, (with 4 of 7 commissioners necessary for a quorum), voted 4-1 to sustain its opposition the above-referenced application for zoning approval for the new baseball stadium.

The Commission passed the following resolution:

"The HOK parking/residential plan represents a great improvement over the Sports and Entertainment Commission's May 3rd proposal, but too many concerns that let to our rejection of that proposal remain unaddressed and unresolved. Therefore, ANC 6D remains opposed to the Sports and Entertainment Commission's proposal."

Additionally, attached is a brief summary of the issues raised at the meeting that still concern the ANC. We hope that you will give our Commission's view great weight as you move forward with your consideration of the project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andy Litsky
Chairman

ED. NOTE - The full statement is not printed here.

Protect Present Housing Near South Capitol Street

By Dale MacIver

D C's new Comprehensive Plan calls for special protection for existing SW housing from the "adverse impacts associated with increased density and traffic relating to stadium area development."

The Plan, being discussed at neighborhood meetings, such as the June 27 meeting at Arena Stage, has a special section called "Policy AW-2.2.6: South Capitol Neighborhood Buffers." It is on page 23 of the 43 page plan. It says, in full:

"Ensure that the established communities adjacent to the South Capitol Street

corridor, including the James Creek and Greenleaf Gardens housing projects and adjacent residential areas, are buffered from adverse impacts associated with increased density and traffic relating to stadium area development. *Conserve these communities as important parts of the city fabric, and as affordable housing resources for the Southwest community.*" [Ed. - Emphasis added by The Southwester].

Earlier language with similar emphasis on page 22 of the plan states, "Plans for this area...should retain and improve the established low-scale residential areas on the west side of South Capitol Street."

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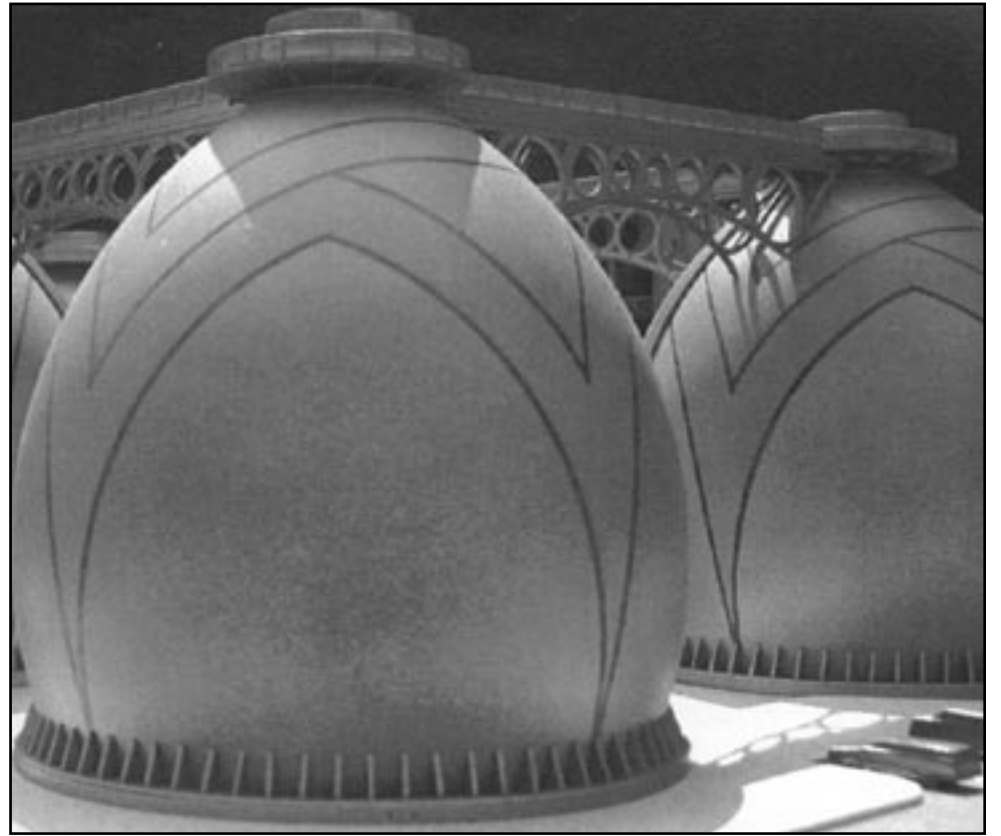
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Water Bill To Double In Ten Years



Giant Digesters at the Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant, costing over \$354 million will be a major expense of the \$2 billion in improvements planned by WASA. They will reduce odor and reduce solids produced at Blue Plains from 1,300 tons a day to 650 tons a day and truck traffic from 70 to 35 a day.

The average customer's water and sewer bill of \$43 a month will jump to \$90 in 10 years to meet the area's need for better storm water runoff control and other improvements and to protect the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers from pollution.

That will be the effect of new water and sewer rates to be voted on in September by the Board of the Washington Water and Sewer Authority (WASA). Although the Congressional Budget Office projects inflation at 2.2% a year over the next ten years, the WASA Board is considering a 7% increase in water bills for 2007 and a plan of keeping "rates steady and as low as reasonably possible, and to only introduce gradual increases as required," according to remarks at the June 8 hearing by Board Chairman Glenn S. Gerstell. Their printed material shows an average 8% increase

for 2008 and each year through 20014.

Congress has authorized WASA to borrow and spend \$2 billion over the next 20 years for capital construction in the DC area. A major project will be construction of 8 miles of METRO-rail sized tunnels to hold back rainwater to be gradually released to the Blue Plains sewage treatment plant instead of overflowing into the Anacostia and Potomac as at present. Raw sewage overflow into the SE rivers - 3 billion gallons a year at present -will be reduced by 96% according to WASA plans.

Information about the WASA plans for increasing water rates was given out at a public meeting at the Southwest Branch Library and a public hearing of the board on June 8. WASA's website is www.WASA.dc.gov.



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Composite picture from Ward 6 candidate forum.

Political Season for SW Ward 6 Residents

By Lida Churchville

The political season for Southwest residents began with a Community Forum for Democratic candidates for the Ward 6 Council seat.

The event, arranged by Jan Eichhorn, President of The Ward 6 Democrats, was held on Capitol Hill in the Hine Jr. High School auditorium on **Tuesday, April 25th**.

The panel of Democratic candidates at the event including Will Cobb, government contractor for SRA, Curtis Etherly, VP in public relations for Coca Cola, Keith Jarrell, ANC Commissioner, Leo Pinson, former Ward 6 neighborhood services coordinator, and Tommy Wells, school board member for Wards 5 and 6, were questioned by a media panel of Ward 6 residents including Lida Churchville of *The Southwester*, Sam Ford of *ABC-TV*, Andrew Lightman of the *Hill Rag*, Mark Seagraves of *WTOP News*, and Patti Shea of *The Voice of the Hill*.

In addition to the media's own questions, members of the Ward 6 audience were invited to submit written questions for the candidates and were given the

chance to participate in a non-binding straw poll. Community revitalization, tenants' rights, family-based housing, education and the baseball stadium were all brought up in the forum. But when Curtis Etherly admitted that he planned to continue his work at Coca Cola while serving as a Council member, concerns about the need for council members to work fulltime for their constituents became the issue.

The evening's straw poll ranked Tommy Wells well ahead followed by Curtis Etherly and Leo Pinson.

On **Wednesday, May 31**, at 7:30 pm, the Ward 6 Democrats hosted a forum with candidates for DC Council Chair Vincent Gray and Kathy Patterson and candidates for DC Council at-large A. Scott Bolden and Phil Mendelson. Mark Plotkin served as the forum moderator. It was a hectic evening as busloads of senior citizens crowded into the voting area for the straw poll.

Vincent Gray won the straw poll for DC Council Chair, but accusations of vote tampering, ineligible voters and challenged ballots were heard when the Ward

6 Democrats announced that poll results in the at-large race between Mendelson and Bolden could not be determined.

What's next? Don't miss the SW Candidates Forum at the Arena Stage on **Monday August 14th** at the 7:30 pm joint public meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Council (ANC) and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA). And don't forget — the DC Primary is **September 12th!**

2006 Election Year Dates

Key dates for the District of Columbia Sep. 12 Primary and Nov. 7 General Elections for 2006 have been released by the Board of Elections and Ethics for planning purposes only, because of possible changes to the laws.

The web site for the office is www.dc.boee.org. Voter Services Office is at 202-727-2525.

Voter registration — including change of address or change of party affiliation — closes on Monday, Aug. 14 for the Primary and Tues. Oct. 10 for the General Election.

Main offices up for election at these two elections are the Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Mayor, Council Chair, an At-Large Member of the Council and SW/SE's 6th Ward Council Member, plus at the General Election some members of the Board of Education.

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Arena Stage's "Voices of Now"

Fifteen students from Jefferson Jr. High are shown performing the student-written play about their own lives, called "Lost and Found."



From the Playbill for the student play "Lost and Found"

"Voices of Now is Arena Stage's after-school drama program for Southwest D.C. youth in which participating students study improvisation, movement and performance. Now in its fourth year, the program has an enthusiastic following from both new and returning students. Based on their participation in a series of fall drama workshops, students are invited to audition for the Voices of Now Ensemble, a select group that collaborates to create and perform an original play.

As Ensemble members, fifteen Jefferson Jr. High students have met with Arena Stage teaching artists for three months to write, rehearse and build performance skills. The culminating performances of their play, *Lost and Found*, demonstrate and celebrate the hard work and accom-

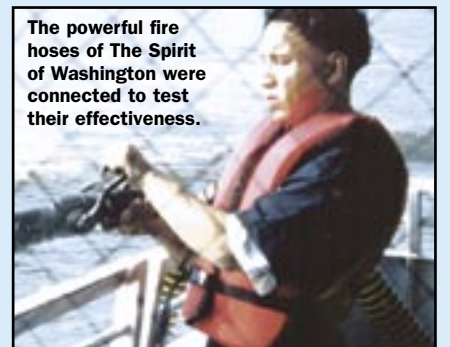


Arena Stage artists who trained, coached and directed the Voices of Now Ensemble over three months are Psalmayene 24, left, and Ashley Forman.

plishments of these young people from Southwest."

Student performers listed in the playbill are: Jannel Alston Grace Daniel, Roderic David, Marvin Higgenbotham, Dominique Huertas, Ashley Hughes, Aminata Jalloh, Adrienne Mavritte, Tram Ngo, James Powell, Breanna Robinson, Kelvin Sherman, Siera Toney, Deanna White and Ranika Wilder.

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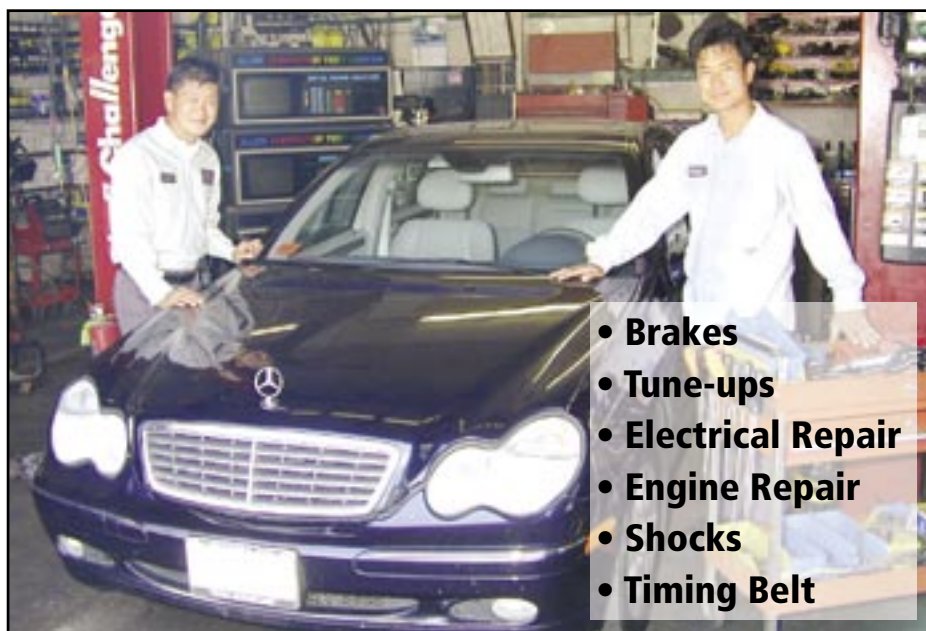
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SWNA On Baseball Zoning

Tom Heinemann, vice president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly pressed the DC Zoning Commission to require underground parking in the new baseball stadium. In testimony at the commission hearing Heinemann stated SWNA's position in favor of retail development at the stadium that makes the site lively even when games are not being played.

Heinemann also repeated the SWNA request of a year and a half ago that baseball renovate school playing fields in SW and provide a sports camp for youth in the summer.

June 26, 2006

Statement of
Tom Heinemann
Vice President, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.
Before the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
Case No. 06-22 (District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment
Commission-Construction of a Major League of a Major League
Baseball Ballpark)

Good evening Chairman Mitten, Vice Chair Hood, and members of the Zoning Commission, my name is Tom Heinemann, vice-president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. SWNA, aside from running youth programs, a scholarship fund, and a Southwest history program, also provides monthly forums for SW residents to discuss pressing issues before the community. Obviously one of the most controversial topics is the development of the stadium in Near SE. After a community forum in October 2004, the SWNA board narrowly adopted a resolution supporting the construction of the stadium, subject to a number of caveats including: 1) that a traffic plan be put into place that would provide minimal disruption to residents, 2) that southwest residents are able to gain meaningful employment from the economic development. I have included SWNA's full statement on the Stadium as an attachment to my remarks.

At its special board meeting Monday, October 25, 2004, the board of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly adopted the following resolution:

"The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly would support the construction of a publicly funded baseball stadium in or near our neighborhood if--

1. We had confidence the current proposal would produce tax revenues to match the city's expenditures; and--
2. We received--
 - a. Convincing answers to serious questions about--
 - * Parking, street traffic, and public transportation;
 - * Noise; and--
 - * Displacement of current residents and businesses; and--
 - b. Guarantees that--
 - * Construction would yield increased employment for Southwest residents;

* The team would commit to an eight-week summer camp free for Southwest boys and girls; and--

* The team would commit to refurbish playing fields at Jefferson Junior High School and Amidon, Bowen, and Van Ness Elementary Schools."

SWNA believes that the stadium should provide a catalyst for economic development and also provide numerous employment opportunities for SW residents, particularly those residents who may be chronically unemployed. The key for making the area a vibrant hub of economic activity is to minimize the number of surface parking, or parking towers -- space that could otherwise be used to enhance the notion that Near Southeast and Southwest are destinations in their own right. As the commission considers the various parking proposals, please be aware that your final decision directly impacts the quality of life for residents across South Capitol Street. Because the wellbeing of SW is in part dependent on the economic success of the stadium, SWNA strongly opposes the construction of single purpose parking towers or surface parking.

Also, I would like to use this opportunity to extend an invitation to the Sports and Entertainment Commission, the Lerner Group, and the developers to meet and address the Southwest community during one of our monthly meetings.

Thank you for allowing me to testify this evening. I welcome any questions you may have.

Greater DC Cares

At right, Greater
DC Cares at SW
Library.

Below, Greater DC
Cares at Amidon
School.



Computer Class at King Greenleaf Rec.



SW Child Development

Children in SW
child development
center at St. Mat-
thews Lutheran
Church.



GU Training For Non-Profit Careers

Applications are being accepted by Georgetown University for people wanting to have careers with non-profit organizations. Their Spring 2007 class to earn certificates in non-profit management will be held three full days each month in Mar., Apr. and May. Tuition is \$4900 with some partial scholarships available.

A recent graduating class of 32 students from the DC area, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania included SW resident Thelma Jones.

Classes include leadership and governance, financial management, strategic planning and evaluation, legal and ethical issues for nonprofit decision makers and resource and fund development.

Each student prepares a "capstone" management project. Ms. Jones' project, which she presented at the graduation luncheon at the World Bank, was on the importance of youth on nonprofit board or in leadership positions. It was based on her volunteer work with DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Dr. Kathy P. Kretman, Executive Director, GU's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership, which conducts the certificate program, commended Ms. Jones on her participation in the course.

Rowing Classes on the Anacostia

By Jean Macdonald, Chair, YATF

Rowing in a shell is a new sport for most of the SW youth participating in a six-week-long program sponsored by the Capitol Rowing Club and the Youth Activities Task Force. Three mornings a week they meet at the Anacostia Rowing Club with Coach Drew and his assistants. They are learning the basic skills necessary to becoming a coordinated rowing team. Launching a shell, fastening in the long paddles, and boarding the shell are the beginning. Rowing in unison is next. A break with snacks is part of the morning activities.



SW youth climb from the dock to the boat for rowing class.

The lessons take place almost directly underneath the 11th Street Bridge, but the area is park-like, with benches and big shade trees. The ecology of the Anacostia River is incorporated in the lessons.

This exciting opportunity was made possible by a grant to the Capitol Rowing Club from the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, and by the YATF who provide neighborhood youth and transportation to and from King Greenleaf Recreation Center. Some of the participants are also enrolled in the summer camp at the Rec. Center.



Students at Amidon Elementary School opened up their personal savings accounts with a credit union.

Van Ness School Closing; Amidon, Bowen Could Be Combined

The D.C. Public School System is closing Van Ness Elementary School for lack of children, now that the Arthur Capper and Carrollsburg public housing complexes have closed and are being torn down. Replacement housing for public housing residents in Near SE as part of the Hope Six construction in the Van Ness area is some years off.

As part of the public schools master plan recently announced, Amidon (with 285 students) and Bowen (with 242 students) Elementary Schools in Near SW

will lose their sixth grade students to Jefferson Jr. High. Elementary Schools are supposed to have between 300 and 500 students, so these two Southwest schools could face "consolidation," with one or the other closed.

The Board of Education gave Superintendent Janney until May 28 to eliminate one million square feet of the school system's 16.2 million square feet of building space.

The school system web site is www.k12.dc.us.



Donna Brandes (Mo-Chunk Tribe of Wisconsin) instructs young Roman Hamilton of SW in the art of basket weaving.

Family Activity at Museum

By Blossom Athey

The family Activity Room at the National Museum of the American Indian is abuzz DAILY with fun and learning activities for families. Handling fishing tools, practicing weaving, playing matching games or learning a story are but a few of the fun activities underway each day from 10:30 am to 5

pm from now till the end of the year.

The Family Activity room program is part of the "Listening to our ancestors" exhibit at the museum, which is located just up 4th St. at Independence Ave. SW.

All activities are free and no passes or tickets are required for admission to the museum or to this program. Be sure to take the kids and let them learn how to make baskets with cedar, grass and reeds.

Safe Sitters Ages 11 to 13

By Thelma Jones

The dog days of summer are upon us and many small children will be at home while their parents are working. Handling crises, keeping children safe and secure, and nurturing and guiding a young child has been one of the many successful programs that the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) has provided to the community since its inception in 1982.

YATF has trained more than three dozens Safe Sitters over the past several years who will be babysitting for their younger siblings or a neighbor's child while the parent or guardian is at work or away from home.

Through the Safe Sitter training, adolescent girls and boys ages 11-13 role play and practice the skills of caring for children in their charge, behavior management, first aid and safety, and choking and rescue breathing.

In addition, through role playing and class discussions, adolescents are taught babysitting as a business so that any practice with their siblings or neighbor's children will give them greater experience and confidence, enabling them to be more marketable as a paid Safe Sitter.

If you know of any individual, group, organization or church that is interested in Safe Sitter training, please contact YATF Safe Sitter Instructor Thelma Jones at (202) 488-3746. Funded by River Park Friends, Portal Associates, and YATF, classes are usually held in River Park's South Common Room at 1311 Delaware Avenue, SW.

A continental breakfast and lunch is provided for the full day training. In addition, each participant is required to pass a test which helps to ensure that the student has mastered the skills of an effective Safe Sitter. YATF is one of only two registered Safe Sitter sites in the nation's capital, including being the only registered site for several years.

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Collaborative Helps Ward 6 Families

By Ruth Hamilton

Their office and Family Support Center #1 are on the third floor of the Syphax office building at 1501 Half St., SW, but they are responsible for serving families throughout Ward 6. Family Support Center #2 is at Potomac Gardens at 10th St. SE. The summer youth program is at St. Matthew's Baptist Church on New Jersey Ave. SE. Other contracted partners include Sasha Bruce Youth Work, Kidsafe at Randall Rec. on I St. SW and CAG on Capitol Hill. They are highly visible in the neighborhoods through monthly public luncheon meetings rotating back and forth across Ward 6. They are the SWWR for short, standing for "South Washington West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative," started in 1997 as one of seven neighborhood-based agencies funded primarily by DC's Child and Family Service Administration to prevent the abuse and neglect of children and strengthen communities through collaborative efforts. This year alone a staff of 9 Family Support Workers have helped 141 families



with issues ranging from housing and employment to mental health, budgeting, school management and more. Thirty-eight "youth aging out" have received help in transitioning out of foster care.

Events sponsored by SWWR include another Health Fair at King Greenleaf Rec. Oct. 7 this year, job fairs, and monthly financial workshops.

Volunteers interested in being a part of this locally run effort should contact SWWR's Board Chair Rev. Ruth Hamilton, 202-484-7700 or Executive Director Sam Tramel 202-488-7997.



Children are shown at breakfast at a SW location.

Free Meals in the Summer

Although summer vacation puts an end to the free or low cost meals programs of the DC schools, the DC State Education Office provides free breakfast and lunch from June to August to eligible children and youth up to age 18.



A KGL Baseball Team.

Jobs Workshop at SEU

By Dale MacIver

A 43-page report has been issued after the "Action Roundtable on Jobs and Business Opportunities" at Southeastern University in May.

A few of the specific action steps recommended include:

p. 12 "provide job training", "create an information clearing house on jobs", "have job fairs quarterly", "vocational education in the public schools."

p. 13 "businesses hire local employees"

p.15 "Transform Waterside Mall plan", "developers commit to local businesses," "neighborhood surveys," "negotiate rent subsidies," "SEU Marketing center," "SWNA block parties - create a village."

p. 16 "places for youth to work in neighborhood."

The report says it is on line at www.collaborationdc.org.



JOBS WORKSHOP: Discussions at the all day workshop on jobs and business opportunities included small groups tables on various topics.



Spring Hoops Tourney

By Coach Tony Parry

Six basketball teams took part in a 13 game Spring tournament organized and run by Vikings Coach Tony Parry from April through June at Bowen School gym.

League Most Valuable Player (MVP) was Duke. Offensive MVPs were Smoke

and George. Defensive MVP was Skywalker.

Ages of players ranged from 12 to 17 except 10-year-old Jake Baker, who was out-sized in every phase of the game but continued to show up for each game, and scored 13 points for his team, the Suns, in one game.

The players were glad to have a chance

to keep their basketball skills sharp while waiting for the start of football practice on July 1.

Special thanks go to Greg Boykins, Coach Bill, Jake Baker, Sr., Mrs. April Hines and Alvin Hudgens. Without their help and support the tournament would not have been possible.

SW Hoop Stars "Drafted" By Paul VI

By Coach Tony Parry

Special congratulations go to four SW hoopsters who have been accepted to play basketball next season at a private school - Paul VI.

They are Kenard Ballinger, Dominique Sanders, John Mgaza Se Se and Louis Bell, Jr.



HEAT has players in back, left to right: Wayne, Malik, Mad Marty, Big Ron, Andre. Kneeling is Lips.



The NETS team - in back, left to right, Howard, Donte, Rook and Kavon. Kneeling, B-luv, Lil Ervin and Eric.



The SUNS basketball team in the Spring Tournament included (left to right in back) Duke (MVP), Blue, Rico and Jonathan. Kneeling is John. Not shown are Domonique, Fergee and Lil Jake.



Spring Tournament team, the SPURS, included (left to right in back) Devonte, Quelo, Smoke and Snoop. Kneeling are Jevon and Dreyon.



The BULLS team in the tournament included - in back, left to right: Lil Mo, Peety, Ervin and Niko. Kneeling are Jamal, Savion, and Brandon.



Commissioner for the tournament was Coach Tony Parry.



MAVS included - in back, left to right: Tyrone, Jamie, Defensive MVP Skywalker, Da'Jour, Antwon and Offensive MVP George. Kneeling are Louie B "Buffalo," and West.

SWNA Jazz Fund Raiser



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